

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01

/165 W

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R 041500Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5177

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0146

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ALL REFERENCES TO "ROC" IN
NUMBERED PARA 4 CORRECTED TO READ "ROK RPT ROK")

E.O. 11562: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GB, KN

SUBJ: GABON ESTABLISHES RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA

REF: LIBREVILLE 0115

1. GOG ANNOUNCED OFFICIALLY FEBRUARY 4 ESTABLISHMENT
OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA AND INTENTION
TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS.

2. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING DECISION NOTED MUTUAL
DESIRE DEVELOP GOOD RELATIONS AND TO COOPERATE ON
BASIS OF COMPLETE EQUALITY, RECIPROCAL ADVANTAGE,
MUTUAL RESPECT OF SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTERFERENCE
IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. COMMUNIQUE SIGNED MY BY MINISTER OF STATE (MOREIGN
AFFAIRS) RAWIRI FOR GABON AND BY KIN SENUNG HYEUK,
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NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR Q MAURITANIA.

4. ROK CHARGE GAVE EMBASSY FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DETAILS FEBRUARY 4:

A. HE SPOKE WITH MFA SECGEN ADANDE FEBRUARY 2. ADANDE EXPLAINED THAT RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA SHOULD BE SEEN IN CONTEXT OF GABON'S POLICY OF OPENNESS WHICH MEANS IT CAN ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. ADANDE ESTIMATED THAT RESIDENT NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR WOULD ARRIVE IN LIBREVILLE WITHIN TWO MONTHS. HE OFFERED NO ASSURANCES CONCERNING THE STATE OF ROK-GABONESE RELATIONS NOR DID ROK CHARGE SEEK THEM.

B. ROK CHARGE HAS REPORTED RECOGNITION TO HIS GOVERNMENT, RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE OF ROC MISSION HERE, BUT HAS RECEIVED NO REPLY.

C. ROK AT CONSIDERABLE DISADVANTAGE BECAUSE AT BEST IT WILL HAVE NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR. TIMING IS ALSO UNFORTUNATE IN THAT CURRENT ROC AMBASSADOR (PARIS) WILL BE REPLACED END OF FEBRUARY. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT GABON WILL NOT GRANT HIS SUCCESSOR AGREEMENT OR THAT SEOUL WILL SIMPLY NOT SEEK ONE.

D. ROK CHARGE FELT THERE NO BASIC DIFFICULTY IN MAINTAINING MISSION HERE BECAUSE AMPLE PRESIDENCE EXISTS. SENEGAL, TOGO, UPPER VOLTA, ZAIRE, NIGERIA AND CAMEROON ALL HAVE RESIDENT MISSIONS FROM BOTH KOREAS.

E. GOG SOURCE (UNDISCLOSED) HAS TOLD ROK CHARGE THAT NORTH KOREANS HAVE PROMISED CONSIDERABLE AID IN MATERIEL FOR TRANSGABON RAILROAD IN EXCHANGE FOR RECOGNITION. MCKESSON

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